

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7972

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

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AMEMBASSY ROME

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USMISSION OECD PARIS

USNMR SHAPE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, PINT, SHUM, UK

SUBJECT: LARGE TUC-LABOR RALLY AGAINST RACIALISM MARRED
BY EXTREME LEFT-WING MILITANTS

REF: (A) LONDON 18745 (B) LONDON 14420

1. THERE WAS A GOOD TURNOUT - AN ESTIMATED 20,000
PEOPLE - FOR THE FIRST MAJOR ANTI-RACIALIST AND ANTI-
DISCRIMINATION RALLY SPONSORED JOINTLY BY THE TUC AND THE
LABOR PARTY ON SUNDAY (NOVEMBER 21). IT WAS MARRED,
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HOWEVER, WHEN EXTREME LEFTISTS BOOED AND HECKLED ONE OF

THE PRINCIPAL SPEAKERS, HOME SECRETARY MERLYN REES,
BECAUSE OF THE GOVERNMENT'S EXCLUSION ORDER AGAINST AGEE
AND HOSENBALL (REF. A.)

2. THE RALLY WAS PART OF THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST RACIALISM
WHICH BOTH THE TUC AND THE LABOR PARTY STRONGLY ENDORSED
AT THEIR RECENT CONFERENCES (REF. B). MARCHERS COMING
FROM ALL PARTS OF THE COUNTRY PARADED FROM HYDE PARK TO
TRAFALGAR SQUARE WHERE THEY GATHERED TO HEAR SPEECHES
FROM TRADE UNION AND PARTY LEADERS, INCLUDING LEN
MURRAY, TUC GENERAL SECRETARY; TOM JACKSON, CHAIRMAN OF
THE TUC RACE RELATIONS ADVISORY COMMITTEE; MICHAEL FOOT,
LEADER OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS; RON HAYWARD, GENERAL
SECRETARY OF THE PARTY; MERLYN REES, AND OTHERS. ALL
SPEAKERS FOLLOWED THE BASIC THEME: RACIALISM MUST BE
UPROOTED IN BRITAIN AT EVERY LEVEL AND THE CAMPAIGN
THROUGH THE COUNTRY AGAINST IT MUST BE UNREMITTING.

3. UNTIL THE TIME ARRIVED FOR REES TO MAKE HIS ADDRESS,
THE RALLY HAD BEEN ORDERLY AND FRIENDLY. TELECASTS
SHOWED A LARGE NUMBER OF ASIAN AND BLACK MARCHERS,
INCLUDING A WEST INDIAN BAND. HOWEVER, WHEN REES GOT UP
TO SPEAK, HECKLERS WITH BANNERS READING "REES OUT - AGEE
AND HOSENBALL IN", "ME
LYN THE MAGICIAN OUT - HOSENBALL
MUST STAY" CREATED AN UPROAR WHICH DROWNED OUT THE HOME
SECRETARY'S ADDRESS. TUC STAFFER RESPONSIBLE FOR RACE
QUESTIONS ATTRIBUTED THE HECKLING TO THE INTERNATIONAL
SOCIALISTS AND OTHER EXTREME LEFT-WING TROTSKYITE GROUPS
WHO ARE CONSTANTLY PRESENT AT GATHERINGS SUCH AS THIS
ONE. (IT WAS ONLY BECAUSE OF THE TIGHT SECURITY MEASURES
TAKEN BY THE TUC LEADERSHIP THAT THESE GROUPS WERE
LARGELY THWARTED IN THEIR EFFORTS TO DISRUPT THE TUC CON-
GRESS IN BRIGHTON, BUT ABOUT FIVE OF THEM SUCCEEDED IN
PENETRATING AND DISRUPTING ONE SESSION.)

ARMSTRONG

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